

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 3

May, 1898

No. 5

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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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Instruction in the Use of Books in a Normal School

Irene Warren, librarian Chicago normal school

Emerson appreciated the great lack of an intelligent use of books when he wrote: The colleges, whilst they provide us with libraries, furnish no professor of books; and I think no chair so much needed. F. B. Perkins expressed the same want in a paper for the 1876 Government report on libraries, when he wrote: Not the history of literature, nor any one literature, nor any one department of literature, nor the grammar of any language, nor any one language, nor language itself, nor any form of its use, nor even any particular form of thought. It is something higher than any one of these; it is not any one subject, nor any field of investigation, but is a method for investigating any subject in the primitive records of human thought. It might be compared with the calculus in applied mathematics, it is a means of following up swiftly and thoroughly the best researches in any direction, and then pushing them further; it seeks to give a last and highest training for enlarging any desired department of human knowledge. It is the science and art of reading for a purpose; it is a calculus of applied literature.

It was these ideas that encouraged me to formulate a remedy for the lack every thoughtful schoolchild feels so strongly all through his school course.

With the help of a very interested president the work was started at the State normal school, Stevens Point, Wis. The normal and preparatory classes were divided into eight sections of about 35 pupils each. One section met one half hour each day, four days a week. The time was so short and the amount to bring before them so great, that the half hour was generally taken to talk to them, and then a list of questions bulletined that brought out the points taken up, which the pupils answered and handed in for correction. We only studied such books as were there in the Normal school library. The plan of the work was as follows:

- 1) Students taken into the library and its working principles explained—the arrangement of books on the shelves, the use of the card catalog and bulletin boards, the rules and regulations read, what the librarian expected of the pupils and what they could expect of her.

- 2) Dictionaries.

- 3) Cyclopedias.

- 4) Other reference books: Appleton's annual cyclopedia, Poole's index, Annual literary index and Cumulative index, Century cyclopedia of names, Lippincott's gazetteer, Harper's book of facts, etc.

- 5) Wisconsin laws regarding libraries. Relation of libraries and schools. (A copy of the list of books for district schools prepared by state superintendent of schools given to each pupil.)

- 6) Each pupil given a problem to work out, such as—What books would

you use in presenting the subject of birds to an eighth grade, and how would you use them? a) Books the teacher would use in preparing lesson. b) Books the teacher would recommend to pupils preparing lesson. c) Books for supplementary reading. List to include not only science books, but also essays, poetry, pictures, and songs.

7) Periodicals. Those especially helpful to teachers.

8) Clubs, home libraries, traveling libraries, public libraries, and how they may aid in school work. How to encourage children to read good literature.

9) Value of notes, how to take and preserve them.

As an example of how a subject was worked up, I will take the second talk, which was on Dictionaries. Those taken were the Webster's international and Academic, the Standard, and the Century. The points brought out were the general construction, size, binding, price, illustrations, supplements, diacritical marks used in each, etc., and a comparison of the value. The following questions to show the value of the supplements were bulletined for students to look up in these dictionaries, and tell in what one the answers were found.

1) Where did we get the expression Almighty dollar? Who was called the Attic muse? Which is the Bay state? Who wrote the Battle of the frogs and the mice? Who is Geoffrey Crayon, Esq.?

2) What is the meaning of the daffodil? the opal?

3) Meaning of "lex terrea"?

4) Meaning of the following abbreviations: hhd., bal.?

5) Who was the Quaker poet? Which is the Quaker city?

6) Where are the illustrations of various snowflakes to be found?

7) Where are the seals of the states given?

8) In what books are the following characters: Agnes Wickfield, Rosalind, Prospero, Rebecca the Jewess, Old man of the seas, Ichabod Crane.

9) What is known as "the dark day"?

10) Give the seven wonders of the world.

In addition to this classroom work, a system of traveling libraries was started in the county and two home libraries in the Polish district of the town. We would send word to the teacher of a district school that we would visit him, if convenient, on a certain Friday night or Saturday afternoon, and we would like also to meet his pupils and the people of the community. We would talk to them about books and pictures and some students always went with us who sang and played for them.

There were many disadvantages in the class work undertaken. The meetings were not often enough to keep up the students' enthusiasm. The students were overworked before this course was started, and the library classes always found them exhausted from their day's work. But perhaps the most serious difficulty of all was the fact that the classes were in no way graded according to their knowledge of books.

The aim of the work was:

1) To show the value of the library in educational work.

2) To show how libraries may be started and maintained.

3) To show the way to use books to the best advantage.

4) To familiarize teachers with the best reference books, periodicals, and authors.

5) To acquaint teachers with the labor and time saving devices librarians have carefully worked out.

6) To start students on an equal basis in this line the same as they are started equally in arithmetic, language, and history.

7) To bring out the broad side of the subjects—the poetry, art, essays, songs, and science.

8) To bring out the relative value of books in the homes and public institutions.

9) To make possible a more intelligent and pleasing presentation of a subject.

10) To lead to a study and comparison of authorities.

11) To encourage a serious study of children's literature.

12) To open up the possible lines and avenues of study to both teachers and pupils. Carlyle says, The true university of these days is a collection of books.

A course in this line of work must be as carefully planned to fit existing conditions and needs as a course in history and literature. Details would doubtless work out in a much different way in some communities than they did in Stevens Point. But the questions for careful consideration are:

1) Is there enough of value in such a course of study as this to warrant its adoption?

2) Is the normal school the place for it?

Co-operation Between Libraries and Schools in Elgin, Ill.

Elgin is blessed with an unusually good library, with a librarian well fitted for the position and thoroughly in sympathy with children and young people, and a board of managers whose thought is for the good of the library at all times.

Several years ago some members of the school board, in consultation with the librarian, library board, and the teachers, evolved a plan to increase the use of the library by the school children, though the connection between the two was already very close.

Briefly this was the plan followed: Lists of books in groups were copied upon the blackboard of each room by the teacher. The children were urged to read 5 and encouraged to read the whole before they were changed at the middle of the year. No compulsion was used, but each pupil was credited with the number read, and whether historical or not. Not more than one or two pupils in any room failed to respond. A quiz or book review was a regular exercise in the language and composition work, to see that the reading was done intelligently.

Special attention was called to the authors and their style as part of the written work.

In arranging these lists the Public library catalog has been used, and only the books therein contained have been listed. Only one book from any author is found on one list, as a rule. About half the books are history, travels, etc., illustrating the work in the grade; the other half are fiction, but only of the purest and from the best authors. A sample is given below of a seventh-grade list:

- 1 Revolt of the colonies Abbott
- 2 Boy travelers in Russia Knox
- 3 Blue jackets of 1812 Abbott
- 4 Zig-zag journey to the North-west Butterworth
- 5 Oscar in Africa Fosdick
- 6 Boys of '61 Coffin
- 7 Robinson Crusoe DeFoe
- 8 Tour of the world in 80 days, Verne
- 9 War of the revolution Abbott
- 10 Benjamin Franklin Abbott
- 11 Crooked places Mrs Mayo
- 12 Frank on a gunboat Fosdick
- 13 Little lame prince Craik
- 14 Adventures of Pizarro Toule
- 15 What Mr Darwin saw Darwin
- 16 Ways and means Vandegrift
- 17 Braddock (French and Indian war) Music
- 18 Winter sunshine Burroughs
- 19 Aunt Diana Carey
- 20 Zigzag journeys to the Levant Butterworth
- 21 Fairy land of science Buckley
- 22 Under Drake's flag Henty
- 23 Tom Brown's school days Hughes
- 24 Zigzag journeys to the Occident Butterworth
- 25 Dory mates Munroe
- 26 Locusts and wild honey Burroughs
- 27 John Paul Jones Abbott
- 28 Marvels of animal life Holder
- 29 Snowshoes and sledges Munroe

This year the lists will be revised, enlarged, and improved, and will become a permanent part of the school work, since all who have watched this experiment are convinced of its value and desire to have it continued.

Co-operation Between Schools and Libraries

As the time is drawing near for the meeting of the Library section of the N. E. A., the writer thought it might be an interesting showing to present an account of the state of coöperation between public schools and the libraries of the country, or, in other words, to see how far the schools were availing themselves of the offers of assistance which the libraries are making. Letters of inquiry were sent out to all the State superintendents asking for information on this subject. Answers received lead one to think that there is a good deal of work for the library section still to do among the school people, and herein lies the disadvantage of librarians taking too large a part of this work in the N. E. A. The library section work belongs to the school people first and to the librarians afterward. The following states responded to the inquiry, How far is there coöperation between the schools and libraries in your state? It will be seen that most of the answers convey the idea that the library is a part of the school machinery, and not a coequal institution with which may be carried on coöperative work:

Colorado—Reports sent in from the 1500 school districts of the state show that there are about 200 libraries connected with the graded schools in Colorado.
GRACE ESPY PATTON.

Illinois—The Illinois State library association has been successful to a reasonable degree in its efforts to coöperate with the schools of the state. Through its influence many city librarians have been brought into closer relations with our teachers, and thus through them they have been able to increase the number of library patrons among their pupils. In making the lists of books to be purchased, the teachers have frequently been consulted, and as a result, more books, and those better adapted to the tastes and capacities of the children, have been selected than

before this coöperation between the library and the school.

During the school year ending June 30, 1897, 27,586v. were added to our public school libraries, making therein, at that date, a total no. of 329,652 books.

It is very gratifying to be able to report that the reading habit is growing among our pupils.

The Illinois Pupils' reading circle reported last December that it had upward of 80,000 readers, nearly 12,000 books having been sold during the year ending that month.

Among the factors outside of the home, that are contributing to this healthy sentiment for books of an instructive and elevating character, may be mentioned the County superintendency, the Illinois Teachers' and pupils' reading circles, and the State library association.

Their influence in disseminating useful knowledge by means of good books is of incalculable value. As the highest aim in education is to form right character, and as children are educated by what they read, what a fearful responsibility rests upon all those who have to do, in any way, with the selection or recommendation of books for the 15,000,000 pupils in the schools of our land.

May there ever exist the utmost harmony among all the forces at work to cultivate the tastes of our youth for the highest and best literature, and may all the workers in this patriotic movement be abundantly blessed in their efforts to secure such desirable and far-reaching results.
S. M. INGLIS.

Indiana—There has not been much progress in coöperation between libraries and schools in Indiana in recent years, from the fact, as I understand it, that there has been an effort made to establish libraries and maintain them independent of the public schools. I believe, however, that it is almost universally agreed that public schools must be the foundation of public libraries, and to reach the general public it must be through and in connection with the

public schools. What progress has been made along the lines of libraries in our district schools has been done through the efforts of the Young people's reading circle, which has started many excellent libraries, all of which are yielding excellent returns to the people in reach of them.

D. M. GEETING.

Massachusetts—Since Mr Putnam has become librarian he has tried to bring about a close connection between the library and schools in Boston.

In the report for 1895 Mr Putnam writes:

Conferences have been held between committees representing the school committee and the library trustees as to possible further coöperation between the public library and the schools. In the meantime, the library has undertaken the issue to every teacher giving instruction in any institution in the city of Boston of a special card, which entitles the holder to have out six books at a time and retain them four weeks. Since June 1, 1895, 634 of these cards have been issued.

In the last printed report (1896-7) he writes:

Eight thousand and forty-seven volumes from the Central library have been drawn upon teachers' cards during the past year. During the first year of the use of these cards (ending Oct. 1, 1896) the issue upon them from the Central and branches together amounted to 8994v. These are classified by subject in the report of the chief of the issue department.

The facts in Boston are, it is believed, as follows:

The library has formed, in conjunction with the school authorities, an excellent plan for helping schools, but owing to the greatly increased expenditures required in running its new building, and in adding greatly to the facilities of the public, it has not secured money which it would like to spend for the benefit of the schools.

Worcester, a city of more than 100,000 persons, is the second place in population in the commonwealth.

Its library was a pioneer in doing school work; 35,640v. were sent to schools during the past year, to be used by the teachers themselves or under their supervision.

Books are sent regularly by wagon to the rooms in 50 schoolhouses.

In regard to other places in the state it would take considerable time to gather the statistics, and, if gathered, you would not have room to print them. It may be said in general that in almost all the towns and cities of the commonwealth libraries are making every effort to aid teachers and scholars in doing their work.

Next January the Free public library commission hopes to print as a part of its annual report an account of the history, size, methods, etc., in use in every one of the 343 public libraries of the state.

There are less than 10 towns in Massachusetts without the enjoyment of the facilities of a public library.

S. S. GREEN.

Minnesota—The state aid provided by Minnesota is substantial, and school boards, in order to participate in its benefits (and they all do) are restricted to the official catalog of the State library commission, so that, in a measure, or within certain limits, the state controls the selection of books. The commission is composed of the presidents of the four state normal schools, and the State superintendent of public instruction, which by its frequent meetings and experienced membership insures a careful selection of the latest and best publications. School officers are not prohibited from purchasing other books in the open market, but state aid is withheld when this is done. The objections to this system have been so very few in number, and based upon such trivial grounds (arising mostly from lack of knowledge of the conditions) as to be unworthy of consideration.

The statistics for the school year ending July 31, 1897, will not be published until next December, but completed tables in this office show the

following facts: Total no. of public school reading and reference libraries approximately 2500, an increase of about 20 per cent over the preceding year. The rate of increase from year to year is from 15 to 20 per cent. The no. of new volumes added during the year was 30,000, the increase in this item ranging from year to year between 15 and 25 per cent. The total no. of volumes in all libraries is reported at about 280,000, with a valuation of \$200,000. At the same time the no. of districts in the state was 6515, and schoolhouses 6953, with a total of 342,000 pupils.

Included in the above are 258 city, town, and village graded schools, with an enrollment of 155,000, reporting 150,000v., valued at \$105,000, and a circulation of about 250,000v. No statistics on circulation were collected from rural schools.

The preponderance of volumes in incorporated districts is treated in the extract from my report, previously mentioned. The rural schools, in number, constitute 96.16 per cent of the districts in the state, counting cities as one district regardless of the number of schoolhouses. These rural schools have 75 per cent of the number of libraries, but only 46.5 per cent of the total number of volumes.

All the matter I have submitted relates to public school libraries only.

W. W. PENDERGAST.

Michigan—We can say for Michigan that libraries, even for district schools, have become an essential part of the work of education.

D. E. MCCLURE.

Mississippi—The colleges and schools possess their own libraries in our state. As far as I know, there is not a single large circulating library. A few towns have small ones, viz.: Vicksburg, Meridian, Yazoo City, and some others.

HELEN D. BELL.

Missouri—The libraries and the schools go together. Poor libraries mean poor schools. Good schools mean good libraries. The Missouri doctrine is to so

divide the books of the library as to give every room in each school a few books adapted to the use of the pupils in the room. So far as I know, all well organized schools in Missouri have libraries of some sort. Of course, we have a few hundred rural schools without libraries. That means that these are poor schools, but we are introducing libraries into the country schools very rapidly.

JOHN R. KIRK.

New Hampshire—In most, but not all, of the larger cities of the state, coöperative work between libraries and schools is systematically carried on. At Manchester the work was begun under Miss Sanborn about three years ago, and brought to a high degree of success. At Dover the teachers have all possible privileges, practically taking as many books as they want and keeping them as long as they like. At the close of the term, recently, the high school teachers returned 250 books they had had out through the term. Pupils as well as teachers are allowed extra cards.

Owing to the New Hampshire law providing aid for their equipment, almost all the towns of the state are provided with public libraries, but many of them are small, in many cases numbering only a few hundred volumes. As these small libraries grow, in places where coöperation has heretofore been hardly possible because of lack of material, teachers are now being invited to bring in lists of books for purchase, and are thus enabled to obtain for their school a fair representation and to establish a bond of union. Some of the libraries that have not much money to work with, make use of material published by other libraries and publishing houses, and inserting their own shelf numbers, circulate the book lists thus obtained among the teachers of the town.

A feeling of acquaintanceship and friendship exists quite widely among librarians and teachers, due probably to the fact that the State superintendent of public instruction served for several years on the executive committee of the New Hampshire Library associ-

ation, and that at state gatherings of both school and library associations, librarians and teachers together have given talks on the advantages of what has been done and the possibilities of further work.

C. H. G.

New York—In the state of New York a liberal appropriation is annually made by the legislature to encourage the establishment and maintenance of school libraries. A condition to sharing in the state fund is the raising, by tax or otherwise, of at least a certain sum by the district or city. Within prescribed limits, the sum so raised is then duplicated from the state fund. Thus about \$140,000 annually becomes available and is expended for school library purposes. Besides the cities, from 15 to 18 hundred rural school districts annually share in the state money.

The books which are selected in school districts must have the approval of the State superintendent of public instruction. Each district which shares in the state money is accordingly required to submit a list of selections prior to purchase. For the information of those who desire it, suggestive lists are furnished by the superintendent.

At present the law does not permit the circulation of books from the school library among any but pupils, teachers, and school officers. The library must be of an educational character, and it must be kept in the school building.

Oregon—The law of our state has made no provision for school libraries. Whatever libraries we have in our schools are gotten up by the individual schools by their own efforts. A number of libraries have been established in connection with the schools in towns and villages, but I do not think that the subject of libraries has been given much consideration in the country. Ours is a comparatively new state, and we are simply laying the educational foundation.

G. M. IRWIN.

Pennsylvania—The recent laws relating to the establishment of the public libraries have not been in operation long enough to give them a fair trial. In

some districts directors are contemplating such improvements in their district libraries as may be in harmony with the letter and spirit of the laws governing the establishment of the public school libraries.

JOHN Q. STEWART.

Vermont—We have in Vermont no public school library law, but in 1894 a law was passed giving state aid to towns, provided such towns established a library and maintained the same.

In March, 1895, 49 of the 245 towns availed themselves of the provisions of the law; in March, 1896, 23 towns, and in March, 1897, several others; so that it is probably safe to say that, including those established before the act of 1894, more than one half of the towns of Vermont are equipped with public libraries. These libraries are open to pupils of the public schools.

In 1894 a free text-book law was enacted in Vermont, and since that time most of our schoolhouses have been furnished with reference books and classics for children.

According to population, probably no state in the Union within the past five years has had constructed within its borders more public library buildings than Vermont.

MASON S. STONE.

Another Summer School

The Ohio state university will include in its summer courses a Library school under the direction of Dr G. E. Wire, of Evanston, Ill. This school will be conducted especially in the interests of librarians and assistants of small libraries. The usual technique will be taught, and in addition attention will be given to the library questions of the day, such as children's work, school work, and traveling libraries. It is hoped to have assistance from specialists in these and other subjects. The time will be June 20-July 31, and the fee \$15 for the full course.

Requests for circulars should be addressed to Dr J. H. Canfield, Columbus, Ohio.

My English Scrapbook

I did not sail with the A. L. A. party, but in the Canada, a week later. The book, a large, substantially bound one, begins with the labels for luggage; Wanted and Not wanted, in vivid red and blue, sent by the steamship. The title-page opposite is made from the heading of the Conference program in London, with the addition of a part of Kipling's Native-born:

We change our skies above us, but not our hearts that roam;

We learned from our wistful mothers to call old England home . . .

By the hush of our dread, high altars, where the Abbey makes us we,

and some of the other lines.

Where did I get the printed verses? Somebody kindly cut out one of the poems from a library copy of the *Seven seas*, either because he thought it too bad to read or too good not to keep, and the volume, useless to the public, was my dear companion on the voyage out and back. This winter we have been clipping pictures from magazines and illustrated papers, and a great many of them, too small to be of use for circulation, have fitted into the right places in the scrapbook. An advertising pamphlet of the Canada gives views of the deck, library, stateroom and bridge. In one paper is a view of a steamer's side crowded with voyagers, and in another the boy who blew the bugle calls for meals. There are, too, the fastnet light, and the gulls coming to meet us on the Irish coast, the Riverside landing at Liverpool, and the foxgloves and poppies that bloom on the way to London. An old number of the English illustrated magazine yields views of the Euston square station, a London four-wheeler, and a hansom. There are pictures of Lincoln's inn and the Old curiosity shop, omnibuses and nurses, the Guildhall and the pigeons, St. Paul's and the busy life of Cheapside; Lambeth palace in half a dozen views, some portraits from the National gallery and Portrait gallery, a sunset in Oxford street, several views of the Abbey, the British museum, the Man-

sion house, two good portraits of the Lord Mayor, one of the Lady Mayoress, a small one of Lord Crawford, and one or two of other dignitaries, all pleasant souvenirs of our gay London week, with all the invitations from the dear duchesses and sweet countesses in the days when eleven, twelve, one, and two o'clock were no more to us than they were to Mrs Nickleby. There are portraits of Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, and Mr Winsor and Mr Dewey, and bits of letter-press; not a photograph in the whole London collection except three portraits, two from the Portrait gallery.

Down in our basement are the worn-out books that are given to hospital, jail or almshouse as the demand comes. Some of these books have been scissored, with results. There are bits from Henry Esmond and Tess illustrating Winchester, photographs from Tess again, and *A life for a life* at Stonehenge, from *Persuasion*, Northanger abbey, and the Pickwick papers with the Bath collection. The guide-books, too, fall a prey to the shears, in Wells and Glastonbury. Illustrated magazines are bought and still the cutting goes on. In Warwickshire, portraits of Frank Millet and Mary Anderson and Henry Abbey illustrate Broadway; and there are bits from Black's *Strange adventures of a phaeton*, for Broadway Hill and Evesham, and from Kenilworth and Hamlet, for Warwickshire. The little penny books published to advertise Beecham's pills do their part bravely in picturing Bath, Warwick, Leamington, and Stratford, and the photographs of the fine old house of Compton Wynyates are aided by picture and description from the *Illustrated News*. The illustrated papers are rich in pictures of Chatsworth; and the little Beecham books, with the poems of Southey, Wordsworth and Coleridge in cheap editions, yield dozen of clippings for the lakes. The Phaeton, too, is laid under contribution, and the magazines have many a portrait of the lake poets and their friends. All kinds of tickets, advertisements, and pro-

grams are useful in such a scrapbook, and maps of routes play a useful part. For a journey back to London a picture from a newspaper of a luncheon out of the flat basket brought into the railway carriages, is as amusing as a colored drawing of a Bath chair is in Bath. Some little etchings of the Thames, too small to frame, show what the sail down the river is; some lighthouses and the coastwise lights of England, the farewell to the English coast, various kinds of ships, the voyage homeward, a spirited sketch of a deck at an angle of 45° to the horizon depicts the state of the ship in mid-ocean, and a photograph of Thatcher's island shows the first land seen on the home coast. There are a few flowers and leaves, long purples from the banks of the Avon, and holly from the neighborhood of Southey's home, but not many of the dried vegetable specimens that tourists often bring home. Uncollected tickets and luggage labels, views of hotels, or items of interest to friends who have not crossed the Atlantic, find their place in the book. The traveler with a camera has a great advantage over others, but he or she who does not know how to take photographs must be content with what may be gleaned from newspapers and magazines in these days of cheap illustration. There are perhaps three guineas' worth of photographs and a few platinotypes in addition. For the only day, a quiet Sunday in a village several miles from a railroad, to illustrate which no photograph or picture could be found, one of Norman Gale's poems, describing the very place, fills nearly two typewritten pages.

CAROLINE M. HEWINS.

The New York State library has sent to every college in the United States an exhaustive blank of over 20 questions, and will tabulate in time for the A. L. A. meeting to show exactly what is being done throughout the country in instructing students in the wisest use of books and libraries.

State Aid to Traveling Libraries*

C. B. Galbreath, State librarian of Ohio

If State aid to traveling libraries implies appropriations of money for that specific purpose, Ohio has no report to make. Our legislature has made no appropriation for the support of a system of traveling libraries. It must be understood, therefore, at the outset, that the results of the library law of 1896 have been accomplished without any additional expenditure of money on the part of the State.

If, however, the subject assigned for this brief report may include what has been done by the State library to establish and operate a system of book distribution which other states for years have carried on successfully, we shall be pleased to submit a few results of a limited experience which may not be without value to those interested in library extension.

The act of 1896, to which we have referred, does not mention traveling libraries. The authority is found in the following ample provision:

The board of library commissioners . . . shall make such rules for the government of the library and the use of books and other property of the library as they may deem necessary.

Under this law the commissioners introduced the traveling library system. The forms for application, agreement of librarian, and guarantor's bond were modeled after those of New York. The books were selected from the shelves of the State library. Additions were made from the regular book fund. Plain but substantial pine boxes were furnished by the State institution for the deaf and dumb. From a small contingent fund our janitor furnished each box with hinges and padlock. Books were selected in response to requests, and the first traveling libraries of Ohio went forth on their mission.

The conditions under which these libraries are issued are very simple. The organizations to which they are

*Read at Intersate conference at Evanston, Ill., Feb. 22, 1898.

sent give bond for their proper use and safe return. Duplicate lists of these books, with the condition of each volume carefully noted, are sent to the borrowers. One of these is signed and returned; the other is kept. Both parties are thus protected if a question should arise in regard to the condition of a book when issued or returned. Twenty-five volumes are sent out in each library. The borrowers pay transportation both ways.

Some difficulty was at first experienced in bringing the system to the attention of the public. The first agency appealed to was the public press. The daily papers of the state, through their representatives at Columbus, made generous mention of the new departure, and did all that could be desired to bring it to public notice. The result at first was not altogether encouraging. The State federation of women's clubs became interested in the movement, and through this organization a number of libraries were sent out. The Ohio Educational monthly, the official organ of the public schools of the state, published in the August number an article by the writer, entitled, The State library and the public schools. This brought a number of applications, most of them from the rural districts. A few weeks later Mr Freeman, lecturer of the State grange, visited the State library to learn upon what conditions books might be borrowed. To him is due the credit of introducing the system to the granges. His efforts have been heartily supported by the Ohio Farmer, one of the most popular agricultural papers of the Mississippi Valley.

The results may be given in a few words. Since Oct. 9, 1896, 225 traveling libraries have been sent out; 164 of these have been issued since Nov. 15, 1897. They have gone to all parts of the state. The granges have drawn 72; the schools, 37; other organizations, 106.

Applications for these libraries are steadily increasing in number. Thus far the drain has not seriously crippled the State library. We are fast approach-

ing the limit, however, at which special provision must be made to meet the popular demand.

The legislature now in session, we have every reason to believe, will provide ample means for carrying out the work already inaugurated with tangible results and flattering prospects. Good books are safe friends; the best never grow old. This report is submitted with an abiding faith that the state of Ohio will send them forth on their beneficent mission to those who are waiting and calling for them.

The Library Department of the N. E. A.

The committees appointed under the action of the department at the Milwaukee meeting are at work on their respective reports for the meeting in July. The composition of the committees is as follows:

Committee on relations of public libraries to the public schools: John C. Dana, public library, Springfield, Mass.; S. S. Greene, Worcester, Mass.; Linda A. Eastman, Cleveland, Ohio; Mary Wright Plummer, Pratt institute, Brooklyn; Lutie E. Stearns, Milwaukee, Wis.; James E. Russell, Teachers' college, New York; Richard Hardy, Ishpeming, Mich.; L. D. Harvey, Milwaukee, Wis.

Committee on preparation of reading lists: Frank Hutchins, secretary Library commission, Madison, Wis.; A. W. Rankin, Minneapolis, Minn.; Hannah P. James, Wilkesbarre, Pa.; Caroline Hewins, public library, Hartford, Conn.; Supt. Sherman Williams, Glens Falls, N. Y.; H. R. Pattengill, Lansing, Michigan.

The hope of some of the leading members of the department that a committee on the relation of public libraries to public schools might in due time present a report which should take rank in its field of investigation with the epoch-making reports of the committees of 10, 15, and 12, cannot be realized this year. To make such an investigation and study of the problem, to pre-

pare the report and put it into form so that it may be made available for use, it is absolutely necessary that several hundred dollars should be available for the payment of the expenses necessarily involved in doing such work properly.

The members of the committee must meet and organize in detail the plan of work, and personal investigation of the modes and results on library work in connection with the public schools, as carried on in different localities, must be made by the members of the committee. When all the results of written reports to the committee and personal investigation by its members have been made, the committee must again meet to compare notes, collate, and eliminate material, and assign the preparation of specific parts of the report to sub-committees or to individual members of the general committees.

When these separate parts of the report have been prepared by the individuals charged with their preparation, another meeting of the committee should be held to bring these parts into proper relation to each other and to weld them together into a consistent whole; and when all this has been done the report must be printed before it will be of material value to those most interested, or to those whom it is designed to interest.

While the committee will not be able to make such a report as they would be glad to, and as most of those interested feel should be made, it is expected that the report this year will go far toward a full statement of the problems involved, and will serve to emphasize the most important phases of the work as to what is being accomplished and what should be done, and that it will not be without suggestions as to methods by which desired results can be reached, leaving the organization of effort and details in their full scope for the work of a future committee.

The plan is to give up the entire session on July 11 to the report of the committee and to the discussion of topics suggested by the report.

The session on July 12 will be devoted to a consideration of the report of the committee on the preparation of reading lists. It is believed that the concentration of thought and discussions upon these two lines of thought will be productive of better results than could be secured by attempting to cover a wider field.

The local committee is arranging to have special facilities afforded members of the department for inspecting the Congressional library, and the methods employed in so great a library for accomplishing the work for which it was designed.

The members of the department should make a united effort to secure for next year such an appropriation by the board of directors as will make it possible to do the work needed to prepare a report commensurate with the importance of the subject.

It is hoped that all interested in making the public libraries more valuable to the public through the public schools, will interest themselves in securing a large attendance at the Washington meeting.

Library Bindings

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I should like to ask through your journal if some one can tell me why the books in my library, after six months' use, are falling to pieces, and what shall I do to prevent it? I do not think it is all the result of lack of care. We do not have very many books, and what we have are in constant use, particularly the juvenile literature, and the latter suffer the most. Cannot the publishers be prevailed upon to give more care to binding in the leaves and sewing on the covers? Has any effort toward library editions, which are such more than just in name, been made by the A. L. A.? The poor binding on many books issued by reputable publishers is a severe loss to our limited means, and I should like to know how to meet it.

LIBRARIAN.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau - - - - - Publishers

M. E. AHERN - - - - - Editor

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

J. C. DANA.....	Springfield (Mass.)	P. L.
THERESA WEST ELMENDORF.....	Buffalo	P. L.
H. L. ELMENDORF.....	Buffalo	P. L.
F. M. CRUNDEN.....	St. Louis	P. L.
MELVIL DEWEY.....	Director N. Y. State library school	
CAROLINE H. GARLAND.....	Dover (N. H.)	P. L.
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ALICE B. KROEGER, Director library class,	Drexel Institute, Philadelphia	
GEORGE ILES.....	New York City	
T. L. MONTGOMERY, Wagner Institute of Science library,	Philadelphia	
MARY W. PLUMMER, Director library class,	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn	
J. C. ROWELL.....	University of California library,	Berkeley
KATHARINE L. SHARP, Director State library school,	Champaign, Ill	

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August nor September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

THE program and outline of the A. L. A. meeting at Lakewood present a very tempting offer for a most delightful time. Every librarian who has any possible chance of attending may look forward with interest to the fortnight of pleasure as well as profit which has been prepared for those who attend. It is common fame that no expenditure of time and money is so practically useful to a library or to its librarian as that given to the annual meetings of the A. L. A. However excellent these have been in the past, there seems no doubt that the Chautauqua meeting is to be perhaps the best in the series, and if one can attend only once in five or 10 years, this is a good meeting not to miss.

MUCH interest is being expressed by librarians and teachers with regard to the Guide to American history, which Mr Larned has in charge. It is felt that he will exemplify appraisal with a completeness and helpfulness as yet unapproached. Because of the wide popularity of its subject his Guide will have on that ground, also, an acceptance much beyond that accorded its predecessors in the series. Already

from one and another friend of appraisal comes the question, What theme next? and the suggestion oftenest heard is that biography should follow American history. Mrs Salome Cutler Fairchild, of the New York State library school, is particularly interested in this field of literature, and time and strength permitting, would aid in the preparation of an Annotated guide to biography. And yet, if one takes up the Fine art bibliography, issued last year, one finds that it includes some of the best lives of artists and musicians; while Mr Larned in his survey of American history intends nothing else than to skim the cream of all the biographical literature which bears upon the nation's annals. If we are fortunate enough to get appraised Guides to applied science, to the useful arts, to belles-lettres, to fiction, and to travel, there will be, we fear, but few "tailings" left for biography pure and simple.

A LETTER elsewhere in these pages sets forth one of the things that have contributed to the burdens of a librarian's life. A committee of the A. L. A. has had the subject of library bindings under consideration since the Denver meeting, and there has been some discussion of the subject at the subsequent meetings, particularly at Cleveland, but as far as we know nothing tangible has come of it. If the discussion is kept up perhaps the book publishers in time will see that librarians are in earnest in saying that they are willing to pay more for a book that is well put together. It is such a discouraging thing to have one's efforts to build up a book-loving and appreciative sentiment, based on a volume that, though fair to the eye perhaps, on closer examination is found made of poor material which falls to pieces with casual handling. Publishing houses ought to take more pride in the material products which they send out than a majority of them now do. Librarians and book lovers should insist on better things.

An illustration of the influence of such

insistence is the new venture in book-selling in this city. Librarians, teachers, and bookbuyers for years have complained of the utter nonsense of a bookseller classifying his books by publishers. The average bookbuyer does not care who publishes a book on astronomy, for instance. The question with him is what books on astronomy have been published, and how do they compare with each other. The members of the new book firm, from long association with librarians, have learned this, and as a consequence they will arrange their stock according to subjects. If the fact of dissatisfaction with poor material in bookmaking is kept in view, reform in this line also will come eventually.

ONE of the important things calling for a more careful and just consideration in library work is the question of salaries for library workers. When a community awakens to the good which is growing up in a neighboring town around the public library, and bestirs itself to start a like influence in its own midst, economy in expenditure of its money is always an important and very often a necessary thing. But it is false economy to put all of the money into books and leave the administration part of the work almost nothing to go on. A library of 500 books, cared for by one who knows the principles of library science, and provided with apparatus to carry out the plans for doing systematic work in cultivating a thoughtful, intelligent use of these books rather than a purposeless, cursory reading of them, will leave a better and deeper impress on the community in one year than a library of 1000 books in five years, doled out by some one placed in charge because she is related to the powers that be, because she has always liked books, or else for charitable reasons. This last class of persons costs more in wasted time, opportunity, and in deadening the sensibilities which ought to respond to the influences of a library, even though a mere pittance is paid, than a well-

equipped, sympathetic, earnest librarian at five times the amount of money.

There is before us a report of a library in a town of the class we have in mind. The books in the library are 1126; received during the year, 514v.; the circulation was 5351v.; no. of people using the library, 11,680. Classes of books issued, fiction, 3218; juvenile, 1429; history, 286; natural science, 23; on down to fine art, 1. The salary of the librarian, who must have done at least the mechanical part of this work, was \$120 for the year.

One cannot help questioning the demand for the kind of talent which only brings such a pittance in the market, nor at the same time help feeling a sort of impatience for the unappreciation of the whole subject by those having the matter in charge. Those who wish to do library work should prepare themselves for it, and then accept only such salaries as will enable them to avail themselves of the opportunities for self-culture and recreation, without which they cannot keep a creditable standing in the profession.

Trustees should first of all get a live, sympathetic, well-informed librarian, give him every possible help in the work, and there will be a response on the part of the people that will quickly place the library above all pressing needs.

The public school and the public library are both instrumentalities of public education, established and maintained for the diffusion of intelligence and the development of mental power, to the end that good citizenship and patriotic Americanism may prevail among us. These institutions are both supported by public taxation, on the theory that general intelligence is the safeguard of the Republic, and in the well-grounded belief that Though an ignorant people may be governed, only an intelligent people can govern itself.

Between two such institutions the closest possible connection is desirable, in order that their coöperation may bring the greatest good to the greatest number.

How Can, and Should the Library Assist the School?

Channing Folsom, Superintendent of schools,
Dover, N. H.

I am 'not here to instruct librarians as to methods, but rather to speak of the needs of the school, and the manner in which these needs may be met.

We have to consider the teacher, the school, the pupil, the home. The teacher is likely to be conservative; to have fallen into ruts; to be joined to his idols; to make the text-book a fetish; to teach a particular book rather than the subject, so that the initiative in works of coöperation must come from the library side.

If, then, the library is equally conservative, if the librarian and the trustees look upon their books as too sacred or too precious to be handled by boys and girls, the desired coöperation will never be attained.

In beginning the desired work the librarian must have a well-defined idea of what is to be done and how. There should be a well-defined line of differentiation between material which the school should furnish and that properly belonging to the library province.

Of course all text-books, all supplementary reading matter for classroom use, all ordinary reference books, should be furnished by the school authorities. But the more extensive and the more expensive dictionaries, gazetteers, cyclopedias, and books for topical reference cannot be so furnished. If they are to be used by public school pupils, the library must supply them, and make access to them as easy and as pleasant as possible.

Many libraries already do this. The Dover library, of which I can speak with the most knowledge, does it very successfully and very satisfactorily.

Several years ago our librarian saw the importance of this department of library work. Having invited the teachers to a conference, she explained her plans to them, with the result that the library in our city has become an important factor in public school educa-

tion. I think that it may be claimed that the Dover library was the pioneer in New Hampshire in making a specialty of aiding the school.

Pupils are encouraged to consult reference books; teachers are urged to make the library popular with their pupils.

It is within the scope of the library to improve the taste in reading among the pupils of the schools by compiling lists of the best books upon the shelves, and distributing these lists to the pupils. Such lists may be classified as suitable to different grades or ages, or by subjects, as, History of different countries or epochs, Biography, Travels, Nature work, Fiction, etc.

The possible good that may be achieved in this way is immeasurable. Although, according to Dogberry, to write and read comes by nature, we must remember that a taste for good reading is not innate but acquired, and that it is not ordinarily acquired under unfavorable conditions. To ensure the acquirement of this taste by the child, good reading must be made as accessible as the bad, the librarian and the teacher must conspire to put good reading, interesting reading, elevating reading in his way. The well-read person is an educated person. The taste for good reading once acquired is permanent. There is little danger of backsliding. It grows with indulgence. One writer says, No man having once tasted good food or good wine, or even good tobacco, ever voluntarily turns to an inferior article. So with our reading habits; a taste for good reading once acquired becomes a joy forever.

Teachers do not realize as does the librarian, the low tone of the reading taste of the community. When they fully understand this, together with the fact that the acquirement of a reading habit and a love for good literature is largely dependent, in a majority of cases, upon the public school training, then will the librarian have to bestir himself to supply the demand for good books made by the school.

An important direction in which the

library may aid the pupil and coöperate with the school, is in furnishing a line of collateral reading in connection with historical and geographical work. Pupils, and teachers too, need to be disabused of the idea that all knowledge is bound up within the covers of any one book.

But, as I have already said, teachers are conservative; the text-book is too frequently the master rather than the servant.

The librarian must go more than half way. You must not only lead the horse to water, but you must use every persuasive art to make him drink.

A few words as to methods used for bringing the library to the aid of the school.

In the preparation of this paper I wrote to superintendents or teachers of several cities, asking for the details of their plans of using the library in school work. I take the liberty to quote from their replies:

Haverhill, Mass.

The public library grants to each teacher the use of six cards, five of them to be used for aids in school work. It sends to the union schools lying in the parts of Haverhill that are somewhat remote from the central library, 10 in number, libraries numbering each 50 books, that are kept in those schools during the year and returned to the central library in June. These district libraries are selected for their especial places, and a new library is sent to each each year. It places in each school all the catalogs that it issues.

It will this year make the grammar schools branches of the library, sending once each week to each school to carry and bring back the books, the teachers acting as assistants without pay, directing the choice and stimulating the desire of the pupils for good books.

Of course in the schools we are paying a great deal of attention to the out-of-school reading, and once in a while the teachers ask the pupils to write the names of the books that they have

read, the name of their favorite book, or of their favorite character, with the reasons for such partiality.

Pawtucket, R. I.

Each pupil has a school card irrespective of age. Each teacher has six school cards. Special lists are made for use of schools. Subjects for regular work are sent to the library in advance, and books are collected in an accessible place, where they can be consulted or taken to the schools as may be desired. Both teachers and pupils are encouraged to come to the library, by the purchase of such books as will be helpful to them, and by the personal attention of the librarian. The reference department is especially adapted to their needs, and it is not unusual to see 20 or even 30 pupils at work in that department between four and six o'clock.

Pupils in the schools are made to feel that the library is a part of the school system, and the librarian one of their teachers. This community of interests officers of school and library alike encourage. The chairman of the school committee and the superintendent of schools are by virtue of their office members of the board of trustees.

The open-shelf system prevails, and the pupils have the advantage of this.

Manchester, N. H.

Two years ago an attempt was made to bring the library and schools into closer relation. Special cards were issued to teachers, allowing them to take from the institution six books for a period of not more than a month, the books to be taken to the schoolrooms, or anywhere else, and used in any way that the teachers desired, they however being responsible for the safe return of the same.

Books may be exchanged every day if desired, but of course that rarely happens. We have extracts read, lend the books to the children, also mark passages for their perusal.

The privilege is generally used, I think. The taking away of it would be a blow.

Nashua, N. H.

Each teacher is allowed to take out 10 books from the public library. This privilege is appreciated very generally by the teachers. The librarian is very kind, and is always willing to stretch a point in order to favor public school children.

I think this, together with the use of better supplementary reading, has decidedly elevated the taste of our scholars for good literature.

In my own city of Dover the plan is similar to those outlined above.

Every pupil is entitled to a card without regard to age, with the simple requirement that his parent become responsible for him. Children are also allowed students' cards, equally with adults, upon which may be drawn one book (not fiction) and a magazine, in addition to the general card. Every teacher is given a teacher's card, which permits her to draw from the library as many books as are desired for class use, and to retain them an entire term without renewal. These books are read in the classroom by the teacher to the pupils; they are read by pupils to the class, or silently; they may be taken home by the pupils, the teacher being responsible to the library. Pupils are encouraged to visit the library, and to use freely the cyclopedias, dictionaries, gazetteers, and other reference books, a special table being furnished convenient to the shelves.

Teachers and pupils are urged to name any books not found in the library which would probably prove useful in school work, and all books asked for are promptly added.

As might be expected, some teachers use these privileges freely; some sparingly; some, alas! not at all. Some use them intelligently, some blindly.

Good results are noticeable proportionate to the free and intelligent use of the library.

I have been astonished in talking with a grammar school class, just beginning the study of American history, at the breadth of knowledge shown; knowledge that could not have been all

obtained in the classroom, even if the teacher had been a living cyclopedia, but must have come from an acquaintance with books. I have been still more astonished and gratified to find members of this same class, boys twelve to fourteen years of age, going to the library to consult Parkman or Bancroft in connection with their school work, and this from boys who from their home environment might have been expected to be content with the cheapest of cheap yellow covers.

The habit thus formed, the taste thus acquired, will be of infinitely more value to them than the information gained. The latter may soon be forgotten, the former will stay with them through life; but the influence of good books taken into the homes of our school children, from the library or from the school, does not stop with the children themselves. It is impossible that such books should go into even an ignorant, uncouth, unlettered family without exerting an elevating and refining influence.

Thus the school opens to the library the broadest field of doing the greatest good to the greatest number, the shortest avenue to the masses.

But the consciousness of good done will not be the only reward for the library. The reflex action upon the library of this intimate connection with the school will be highly beneficial. A generation will grow up trained to associate the library and the school as instrumentalities of public education, demanding alike its moral and financial support, a generation that in town meetings and in city councils will advocate generous appropriations for the public library as well as for the public school.

Thus, your bread cast upon the waters shall return unto you after many days.

Give a man the taste for good books and the means of gratifying it, and you can hardly fail of making a happy man. You place him in contact with the best society in every period of history.—*Sir John Herschel.*

Library Work at the State Normal School, Greeley, Colo.

Joseph F. Daniels

At the outset it should be borne in mind that there is nothing but voluntary service in this particular library class.

The novice prepares a schedule of time which he or she proposes to spend at the work, and if the recitation program conflicts at any time, our schedule for library work is changed to avoid conflict with regular school work. We cannot accommodate more than five in the office at the same time, although there are usually 12 or 15 names distributed over the time sheet for the day.

Before the end of the year more than one half of these names are erased as other work required in the curriculum demands the attention, so one can readily see that the work hardly reaches the dignity of well-planned class exercises.

The nature of the work would be very objectionable to one who came for the services of an instructor as in a regular class.

The members of our library class have to find out many things for themselves, and the hack work of easy routine is a constant part of their work, in order that they may be worth their "keep" when the office is very busy.

We have considerably less than 10,000v. and only 300 borrowers, but we have a circulation of 35,000v. for home use in nine months. From these figures it will be understood that a great part of the work is at the delivery desk.

We use the D. C. and have no time to teach anything else than our own records, with some little advice upon shorter methods for schoolroom libraries.

We have a sewing bench and a hospital, and during the first three months of school we repair and rebind about 25v. For the rebinding we use an old letter press, a hammer, flat boards of hardwood, a few bone folders and the ordinary binder's supplies.

We get a strong binding, but we are

in too great haste to do good, clean work. We regret this, but it cannot be helped at present.

During a period of two years the whole class has never been in the library together, and of course they have never had class instruction in that sense, but they have talked with other students, and have asked me to say a word now and then in chapel before all the students concerning the life of a book and the care of books. This has led to a general feeling that there is something more than the literary phase of book making and book experience.

Then, finally, we lay a great deal of stress on the subject, book publishers' agents, and the book trade in general, and "running down" or "hunting up" a title is a special labor given to those who can do most everything about the library.

Short bibliographies, and reading or reference lists for class work or for addenda matter to some book in the library, furnishes work for leisure time.

But no member of the class is really proficient until he or she can be the librarian for a day, and if this were not an article devoted to other things I would like to tell of the many funny things which happen that day.

We have many conversations among ourselves concerning libraries for schools, the reading of children, and especial pedagogical topics with their bearings on practical library work in the schoolroom.

In a normal school, of course, we have more thought of the schoolroom library and schoolroom decorations, and less of the per cent of fiction or the two-book system.

When these students, who have worked in our library, go out to the schoolhouses of our state, they really do something, whether it is because of their knowledge of how to go about it, or a deep desire to go about it, or because they think that they ought to do so, I know not; but I do know that they clean up the ragged piles of dirty books and get new books and current magazines from somewhere into their schools.

They beguile young children into subscription schemes involving small sums, one cent, a nickel, and more, when the child might spend the money for candy or marbles and enjoy life. I tell them that it is all wrong and unfair, but they blaze up with all sorts of theories about the early environment and the growth of the child and the power of books until I draw off.

We all hope for the day when every school-teacher shall know what to do next and how to do it, and we feel that some experience in a good library is a most valuable thing.

As Others See Us

The following note from *The Library*, the English periodical, bears a little hard on business women:

Female Assistants.—Iconoclast sends a long communication on this topic which our gallantry forbids us to publish in full. He raises a number of very extraordinary points, the mildest of which is a statement to the effect that women are so utterly devoid of business habits that they cannot even stick a postage stamp of the correct value on a letter! In support of this he states emphatically that one letter out of every two which comes from the United States is insufficiently stamped, and that those letters in particular which hail from library schools, where business method is supposed to be taught, are almost invariably underpaid. It is not the first time we have had this complaint raised against our Transatlantic cousins, but we always put such deliberate carelessness down to excessive business capacity and not to the lack of it. Iconoclast has two things to remember—American librarians are not all ladies; and the British people have not fully indemnified their American relations for that little matter of the Boston tea tax!

After due allowance is made for the kind of man who always talks in that strain, there is still room to warn the woman who is entering the business world to take heed to the things which cause these complaints.

American Library Association

Lakewood-on-Chautauqua, July 2-11, 1898

The following greeting has been extended to the A. L. A. by the officers of the Chautauqua assembly:

The officers of the Chautauqua assembly are greatly interested in the visit of the American librarians to Chautauqua Lake. Chautauqua has represented for more than twenty years an earnest effort to promote systematic reading. Its officers feel that the institution has had some part, at least, in helping to create that intelligent demand for literature which the librarians of the United States are so wisely and vigorously seeking to increase and direct.

The town of Chautauqua is only an hour by steamer from Lakewood, where the association is to hold its meetings. The session for at least one day will be held at Chautauqua. The members of the association will be heartily welcomed and offered the freedom of the city, which is more than an empty compliment, since it involves the remitting of the citizen's tax levied upon all members of the community for the support of the public lectures, concerts, and entertainments of many kinds.

The assembly season opens on June 29, and closes August 22. On July 9 the summer schools, offering nearly 100 courses, under 70 instructors, will begin their work. The program of lectures for the fortnight, July 2-15, will include a course of lectures on Shakespeare's dramas by Prof. Richard G. Moulton, formerly of the Cambridge university extension staff, now of the University of Chicago; a course of lectures on the Struggle for freedom of conscience, by Prof. Gaston Bonet Maury, of the Protestant theological faculty of the University of Paris; a course on early American history, by Reuben G. Thwaites, of Madison, Wis. In addition to these lecture courses, there will be at least two others by prominent men. Beside the more serious lectures there will be concerts, readings, and evening entertain-

ments, including two lectures illustrated with drawings by W. M. R. French, of the Chicago Art institute, an illustrated lecture on English painters by A. T. Van Laer, and a prize spelling match, which is one of the annual features of the Chautauqua season.

Members of the Library association will be interested in visiting various classes of the twelve schools which begin their work on Saturday, July 9. Members of the association will be admitted freely as visitors during the week following the Lakewood gathering.

First announcement and outline program

Sessions. Meetings will begin Monday, July 4, and last through the week. The library department of the National educational association has arranged to have its meetings in Washington at 3 p. m. on Monday and Tuesday, July 11 and 12, so that our members can conveniently get there from Chautauqua.

There will be two sessions each day, evenings being left free for meetings of sections, committees, clubs, library school classes, state associations, and for social features.

The sessions of Thursday, July 7, will be held by invitation on the grounds at Chautauqua, where the authorities are making generous preparation for our reception.

Program. As decided at Oxford, the program will be limited to the two great features, Librarianship and Home education. On all points an effort will be made to have both sides presented, so that the proceedings will be practically a handbook of the best thought on these subjects. The ablest men and women in the country have been invited to prepare the papers and lead the discussions, but full announcements are held back pending acceptance of some of the appointments. Papers and reports should be sent to the secretary June 1, in order that they may be printed and in the hands of members before leaving home, thus giving up the time at the meetings to discussion

instead of spending it on the reading of long papers or statistics.

Question Box. A box will be provided to receive suggested topics. From these subjects will be selected for discussion at the close of each session's program so far as time permits. Each topic should be signed, not for public announcement, but for convenience in communicating, if necessary, with the proposer.

Groups. On one evening members will dine by states, each delegation having its own table. At other times classes, clubs, or other organizations represented, can without extra expense have a club or class dinner together, two or more of some of the smaller states and clubs combining where the number of delegates is too small for a table.

Section meetings. Besides the publishing, trustees, elementary, college and reference section meetings heretofore held, there will be this year a section for large libraries, to discuss the special problems of the great circulating libraries which have branches, deliveries, and more elaborate organization. If demand warrants, bibliographic or other section meetings can be held at the same time.

PROGRAM.

Training of librarians and assistants

- Library schools and training classes.
- Effects of raising the grade of library work by library schools.
- Elementary library classes for training assistants.
- Special training for college librarians.
- Special training for children's librarians.
- Library instruction by correspondence or through extension teaching.
- Summer library schools and classes.
- Distinguishing characteristics of each library school presented by a representative of its faculty.
- Will the interests of the profession be best served by a few well equipped schools with strong fac-

ulties, at central points, or by a large number of smaller schools and classes scattered widely through the country?

Library schools: report of committee.

Special bibliographic or library courses in universities, colleges, and in libraries.

Instruction in use of reference books and libraries for:

Elementary schools.

High schools.

Colleges.

General public.

Apprenticeship as a means of library training.

Assistants' associations and clubs for self-improvement.

Library examinations and credentials.

Library manuals and text-books.

Library periodicals.

State and other local clubs and meetings.

The field for those without special library training.

Dr JOHN S. BILLINGS, director New York public library.

Home education through libraries and allied agencies

Traveling libraries.

F. A. HUTCHINS, secretary Wisconsin free library commission.

Books for the blind.

Study clubs.

Summer, evening, and vacation or other continuation schools.

University extension courses.

Lectures and classes.

Correspondence or private teaching.

Institutes.

Museums of art, history, or science.

Function of the library as a bookstore.

Responsibility of librarians for warning the public against untrustworthy books.

Pictures as the colleagues of books.

Sections

Large libraries. The following topics are proposed for discussion:

Locating branch libraries in school buildings.

Shall the library own or rent its branch library buildings?

Interchangeability of books between center and branches, and the issuance of borrower's cards.

How can the central and branch work best be coördinated?

What books should be bought for branches?

What distance should there be between branch libraries and between branches and the central?

Should all cataloging, binding, repairing, etc., be done at the central library?

When should branches be preferred to delivery stations?

What should be the classification of books in branches?

How far should selection of books for branches be uniform?

The entire week will be focalized on these two groups of topics, and there probably will be no room for miscellaneous papers or discussions except those that grow out of the regular program and of the annual business of the association. Suggestions as to other topics, speakers, papers, or anything pertaining to the meeting, should be sent promptly to the secretary for the use of the committee. Announcements of assignments will be made in each succeeding number of the *Library Journal* and of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*.

Annual reports

Buildings.

WILLIAM E. FOSTER, public librarian, Providence.

Legislation and state aid.

JOSEPH L. HARRISON, librarian Providence athenaeum.

Catalogs and classification.

GEORGE E. WIRE, Evanston, Ill.

Open shelves.

JOHN THOMSON, free public librarian, Philadelphia.

Children's rooms and reading.

CAROLINE M. HEWINS, Hartford public library.

Branches and delivery.

H. C. WELLMAN, Brookline public library.

Information regarding trains, routes, etc., for the East may be had by addressing H. E. Davidson, Library Bureau, Boston, and for the West, from G. B. Meleney, Library Bureau, Chicago.

Conference Notes

Special library exhibit

While publishers, book firms, and dealers in library supplies and fittings are arranging for space in which to display their goods for the inspection of all in attendance at the A. L. A., it is hoped that the librarians will not fail to respond to the request to send something for a special library exhibition.

Librarians are asked to contribute for this exhibition sets of working supplies, mounted for inspection, and appliances that have been contrived for needs in their own library, and having been found helpful, may supply the same need to other libraries.

There is much interest expressed in these days over the circulation of music and photographs. A number of libraries have already introduced both,—let them contribute samples of binding music, part music especially, lists of music showing selection and classification; likewise photographs, lists, mountings, methods of circulation, etc. Such a display will be most helpful to those who are hoping to add either music or photos for the use of patrons.

Everyone who has printed a bulletin or catalog within the past two years is especially requested to furnish a sample copy, that this important side of library work may be properly represented, and an opportunity offered everyone to make a careful study of this ever-present problem.

Covers for periodicals in reading rooms, and periodical check lists, will add greatly to the completeness of the exhibit, also methods of filing pamphlets and clippings.

The Photographers association of America meets on Lake Chautauqua for the third successive time, its meeting following that of the A. L. A. One of the important features of their meeting, and the photographers say the most helpful, is the exhibition of photographs, every member displaying photos to illustrate his year's work and progress. Their exhibition is frequently referred to as an "acre of photographs," for it fills a building that has the floor

space of an acre. If other associations find an exhibition of the work of their members profitable, why not the librarians?

Let all help to make this exhibition of working supplies and appliances, music, photographs, catalogs, bulletins, magazine covers, pamphlet files, a success. All librarians, whether they hope to attend the conference or not, are urged to lend practical aid to this plan by sending something for the exhibition. Miss Hazleton, chairman of the local committee, will be glad to receive communications regarding contributions for this exhibit, and answer any questions as to ways and means. It is necessary that the committee should know in advance what can be depended upon for the exhibition, that plans may be worked out accordingly.

Hotel and cottage rates at Lakewood

The hotel rates at both the Waldmere and Kent will be \$2.50 a day, whether one or two in a room. These hotels are under the same management, and the guests of either house will have all the privileges of the other; they are only a short distance apart, and a broad, green lawn, sloping to the lake, connects them.

Good accommodations can be secured in cottages near the hotels at \$1.50 a day. Rooms may be engaged in advance at either hotel or cottage by addressing Miss Hazletine, Prendergast library, Jamestown, N. Y.

Entertainment

Lake Chautauqua is a pleasure resort in itself, affording as it does recreation of all kinds, boating, fishing, and steamboat excursions, with country drives and bicycling, pleasant wooded paths for strolls, and inviting nooks where books are good companions.

The local committee is planning to extend to the guests various entertainments in the way of picnics, steamboat excursions, etc., and is endeavoring to so arrange its entertainment that some time will be left the members for their own, that they may enjoy the delights of boating and exploring the country.

Library Meetings

Atlantic City, N. J.—Including members of the two associations and visitors from Camden, New York, Reading, and similar places, there were 150 members of the two clubs at the seashore gathering of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association. The first session was held in one of the large parlors of the hotel at 8.30 p. m. March 28. Mr Barnwell presided, and F. P. Stoy, the mayor of Atlantic City, was introduced by a few pleasant words from Frank P. Hill and the chairman. The mayor then proceeded to offer an address of welcome, and spoke of the great benefit to the general library movement that ensued from such gatherings as the present, to which Mr Barnwell responded. The keynote of the speeches of both gentlemen was the advantage of such gatherings, not only to librarians and library assistants, but to the public in general, who by such meetings became fully informed of the objects of library work, the success which was attending the movement, and the benefit to the general community which was insured by the faithful work of the libraries, which were multiplying so rapidly throughout the United States.

John F. Hall, editor of one of the most prosperous papers of the city, followed with an address, the subject of which was *Life at the ocean level*. Mr Hall is a bright speaker, and many of his little hits at the wants of seaside visitors, and the way in which some laid on one side all mental improvement during their stay and others sought to gain both physical and mental improvement were well received. His speech was epigrammatic and interesting.

The paper promised by Joseph G. Rosengarten was read by John Thomson of the Free library. The writer had been called to Cornell on important library work and was unavoidably absent. The paper was exceedingly able, and entered in detail on the Literary history of the Germans in Pennsylvania from their arrival in Germantown in 1685. It told the story of Pastorius and Thomas

Lloyd, and went on to tell the work achieved by James Logan, the establishment of the first paper mill by William Rittenhouse, the achievements of the Ephrata Brotherhood, the German pastors, and the German schools. Mr Rosengarten dwelt pleasantly on the question of the survival of the mediæval art of illuminative painting amongst Pennsylvania Germans, and the members were much interested in Mr Mercer's admirably illustrated paper on this subject, published in a recent number of the proceedings of the American philosophical society, a copy of which was laid upon the table.

The chairman then called upon Mr Thomson to state what had been done by way of missionary effort as a result of the first joint meeting held last year. He responded by speaking on the successful work being done at Reading, whose free public library was opened in April of this year; of the meetings which had been attended at Camden, where a free public library was almost an accomplished fact, and of the bright hopes which followed the first joint meeting for the establishment of a free public library in Atlantic City.

The mayor stated that there was little doubt that a free library would be an accomplished fact in Atlantic City within the next two years, as public sentiment had been seriously awakened upon the point. As to the necessity for such a municipal improvement he thought there was but one opinion.

On Saturday, March 26, the second session of the meeting was held at 10.30, and four papers were read. A. J. Demarest, of Hoboken, spoke upon the subject of Libraries and schools. His remarks were glowing, but showed a want of familiarity with the workings of free public libraries. He failed sufficiently to appreciate that the libraries are most anxious to forward the work of the scholars, and that much of the hindrance of these two lines of work is to be found in a failure on the part of a majority of school-teachers to point out to their children the benefit of a liberal and free use of the public libraries.

Mr Faxon, of the Boston Book Company, gave an excellent address upon the use of periodicals in reference work. His great familiarity with periodical literature enabled him to put forth an excellent exposition of the immense mass of educational matter which is stored away in magazines. He offered excellent suggestions on the best way of ascertaining the contents of these haystacks of literature, and how library assistants could best accomplish benefits by placing this material at the disposal of students and enabling them to make the best use of the learning comprised within the thousands of volumes that make up magazines.

George W. Cole read a paper on the Reminiscence of travel in the Netherlands, and his entertaining account of the libraries in the Netherlands must have excited a very greedy desire on the part of his hearers to follow in his steps through the old workshops of Plantin Moretus and the various chained libraries which he had been fortunate enough to visit.

The session concluded with a paper by Wm. R. Weeks, a library trustee of Newark, who spoke on the number of towns in New Jersey still without public libraries.

The third and last session of the meeting was held Saturday at 8.30 p. m. Mr Dana, of Springfield, was unable to be present, but sent his paper, on the subject of Fiction in our libraries, which was read. The writer took a pessimistic view—much in keeping with several papers he has delivered before the A. L. A.—of the library profession so far as it is accomplishing public good. He seemed entirely to overlook the enormous benefit that is accruing to readers of historical fiction. It is useless for any reformer to expect that young people will be different to their fathers. All young students have been a law unto themselves. They will acquire their knowledge very much each after his own methods. No student who is worth his salt will ever spend his time entirely in solid reading. Light reading will lead him to solid reading, and

but for such pursuits of romance we should never have had our Thackerays, Scotts, Coleridges, and others. If an accurate list of the books read in any one year by any one person, however gifted and studious, could be obtained, the percentage of fiction would be alarming, but may the reading of fiction long continue; it will lead every reader to the study of better and more solid reading.

Helen E. Haines, of the Library Journal, then read the brightest paper of the session, entitled Notes on readers. Her keen remarks upon the users of libraries were particularly engaging, and as the paper will be printed in full, many hundreds who were not present will be able to enjoy her terse methods of dealing with this subject.

Mary W. Plummer, of the Pratt institute library, followed with a very able analysis of the works published by modern Spanish novelists. It was probably a revelation to many that there should be such a fund of brilliant novels so little known to the general users of our libraries. She dealt with the subject with the hand of a familiar master, and those librarians present who were fortunate enough to have the volumes on their shelves are likely to find a steadily increasing demand for these books from their readers.

Mr Cutter, of Northampton, gave an experience in reading, and created much amusement by the accounts of how he had taught his son to enjoy many evening hours in listening to the well-known librarian reading, but when he asserted that the youth would rather walk with him and discuss books than spend his time in company with some pedestrian of the other sex, it was generally and congenially suggested to the speaker that years change manners, and he admitted that his books might now, under changed circumstances, fail to prove the first attraction.

James Warrington then exhibited a copy of the Bay Psalm book, and offered some remarks on binding, bringing these pleasant business sessions to a conclusion.

A large number of the members remained at the shore over Sunday, and in the many opportunities for conference and pleasant conversation, it was again shown that one of the most useful features of these conventions is to be found in bringing persons engaged in library work into close social intercourse. Admirable as may be all the meetings, instructive as may be all the papers, there is a fund of valuable information gained and useful work accomplished by the interchange of thought and opinion between men and women engaged in an important work, who would otherwise know very little of one another personally.

California.—The monthly meeting was held in the San Francisco public library March 11.

The resolution to change the name of the association from Library association of Central California to California library association was introduced by A. W. Jellison. Mr Jellison, in moving the adoption of the resolution, pointed out that the name which had been adopted at the outset to mark the geographical limitation of the association was no longer appropriate, inasmuch as the membership had now extended all over the state. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The committee on copyright depositories reported that they were in receipt of a large correspondence on the subject from librarians and others. Many of the former seemed indifferent to the scheme and some of the latter were virulent against it. The press had accused the committee of plotting a highway robbery. The latest reports from Senator Perkins, who was in charge of the bill, seemed to indicate that there was small chance of its passing during the present session of congress. The report was accepted as progress and the committee was continued.

The following resolution was presented by the secretary:

That, in consideration of the lack of library facilities in San Francisco, and in view of the

projected disposal of two large libraries in the city (Odd Fellows' library and Sutro library),

Resolved, a committee be appointed to take steps to agitate the question of securing these libraries for the city of San Francisco.

The president and R. E. Cowan having spoken in opposition to the motion, an amendment to postpone action to the next meeting was introduced and carried.

It was decided that the May meeting be held at Sacramento on May 30.

A. W. Jellison reported that the editor of the Western Journal of Education, the official educational organ of the state, had offered the association a page in each issue of the journal. It was resolved to accept this offer and the secretary of the association was instructed to act as editor.

A valuable and interesting series of papers, which were devoted to a review of the Books of 1897, was then read.

Prof. Wm. D. Armes, of the university of California, dealt with Literature and biography; Prof. K. C. Babcock, of San Francisco, History and social science; Emily I. Wade characterized briefly the more notable works of fiction and books for the young; D. P. Elder spoke of Notable undertakings in publishing.

Chicago.—The final meeting for the year of the library club was held in the rooms of the Library Bureau. The attendance was large. Reports from the various standing committees were received, and after the transaction of the necessary business of the meeting Hon. Charles G. Neeley, of the Cook county circuit court, delivered a most interesting address on the possibilities of library work among criminals and in jails. Judge Neeley, whose long service on the bench and at the bar fits him to speak with authority, gave some startling statistics bearing upon the criminal population, and detailed instances from his own experience, which were frequently pathetic and always of intense interest. He spoke earnestly of the great possibilities for good which were contained in a well-selected and judiciously administered prison library,

and illustrated his points in the most striking manner by examples of the effect of good books on certain juvenile offenders in whom he had taken a personal interest. Judge Neeley's address was received with much enthusiasm, and after a number of members had testified to their interest and their concurrence in his views, it was resolved to appoint a committee to investigate the matter and report at the next meeting on the advisability of the club taking up work in the jail libraries. At the close of the literary program the officers for the new year were elected as follows: President, Herbert W. Gates; 1st vice-president, H. T. Suduth; 2nd vice-president, Jessie Van Vliet; treasurer, M. E. Ahern; secretary, C. B. Roden. The meeting then adjourned and a pleasant hour was spent in social talk, during which refreshments were served by the staff of the Library Bureau. C. B. RODEN, Sec.

Helena, Mont.—A very interesting and helpful meeting for the discussion of children's books was held in the public library on Saturday afternoon, March 26. Under the direction of Librarian Patten an exhibit of books for children had been held for the inspection of the public for a week previous, and this meeting was at the close.

There was an unexpectedly large attendance of parents and teachers, and the books provoked a lively discussion. The subject proved a fruitful theme, and the most active interest prevailed. The books discussed were such as are suitable for children of the second and third grades in school, and even younger ones. These books had been arranged in six groups, according to subjects. The groups were: Persons and places, nature, myths and tales, stories, miscellany, and picture books.

In opening the meeting, Librarian Patten expressed his belief that out of the large number of books for children now published it would be well to carefully select out the choice few and give them special prominence. He believes there should be far more careful thought

given to selection than has anywhere been done except in rare cases. There should be a good moral tendency, and the book should be intellectually adapted to child knowledge and experience, he said. The language, the illustrations, and all the mechanical features of the books should have excellence. A lively discussion followed, in which a large number present joined.

The thought was developed that to get a satisfactory judgment on a book intended for a little child more than the judgment of one person is necessary. However skilled and competent a person may be, his judgment was likely to be in error, and needed to be placed beside that of several others for comparison and correction. Hence the need that every book should be carefully read by 5 or 10 persons, and a comparison of views had. Nor was the critical reading and examination sufficient. The final test was experience. What an older person thought was likely to be good for a child might not always prove to be such. The book and the child should be brought together for the test of experience. Neither was it enough that the book be used with one or two children. The test was satisfactory only after experience with a considerable number of children who came from various circumstances of life and home surroundings, and who had various natural characteristics. And besides, all that time and repeated use were required to test the effect on character. It was only a thoughtless view of the case if one supposed that a book was a good one for a child simply because a child liked it. To get the best from a book the child should be interested in it, of course, but the interest needed to be in something good and useful. The book should be about something that is worth time and attention.

It was decided to hold another round table in a month for a further comparison of experiences and a continuation of the discussion.

New York—On April 14, the Nineteenth century club, New York, listened

to capital addresses on public libraries from Herbert Putnam, librarian of the Boston public library, and Dr John S. Billings, librarian of the New York library. Mr Putnam argued that the public library supplements the public school in so important a fashion as to have the strongest claims upon popular regard and support. It is probably the most active and promising agency for welding together the heterogeneous elements of American society. The public library is often charged with being little more than a means of providing people with free novels. Mr Putnam said that the ordinary statistics on this point are misleading. A novel may be read in a third the time required for a work on chemistry or economics, which should therefore be "weighted" accordingly when figures are compared. He touched judiciously upon the question of excluding baneful literature, holding that as the public library takes public money to do public good, it has no excuse whatever for doing public harm by supplying bad books. He had little patience with the plea that silly books should be provided for readers of imperfect knowledge and taste, who, it is imagined, may learn in time to ask for better pabulum. He pointed to the art museums which display only the very best art they can collect, and never find the public grumbling that it is too good for them.

Dr Billings told his audience of a negro preacher who in time of trouble comforted his flock by saying, We are all in the hands of an unscrupulous Providence. So is New York city, as its municipal officers decline to proceed with the new library, alleging that the civic debt limit has been reached. In the same case with the library project are several badly needed schools, and the buildings for the Botanical garden. He thought that the irresistible pressure of public indignation might be relied upon soon to end the deadlock at city hall. It occurred to more than one of his hearers, that as real estate in New York is undervalued

all the way from 40 to 60 per cent, the difficulty is clearly a want of will rather than a lack of way.

Pennsylvania.—The February meeting of the library club was held in the rooms of the Drexel institute. It was well attended, and was one of the successful evenings of the season. One hundred and twelve members were present. In the absence of the president, vice president John Thomson took the chair, and after the preliminary business, called for nominations of the officers to act for the ensuing year. Mr Montgomery proposed J. G. Barnwell, of the Library company of Philadelphia, for president, and his election was carried by acclamation. The other officers elected were Hannah P. James of the Osterhout library, and Robert P. Bliss of the Bucknell library, as vice presidents; Mary P. Farr, of the Philadelphia normal school, secretary, and Jean E. Graffen, of the Free library of Philadelphia, treasurer.

Mr Barnwell then took the chair and introduced to the meeting Dr Morris Jastrow, Jr., who delivered a most interesting and thoughtful address upon the subject of oriental libraries. He spoke at length upon the ancient library at Alexandria and its contents, so far as they were known, and expressed the belief that many of the findings in past and present times in Egypt were papyri and other treasures, which had originally been component parts of the library of Alexandria. Dr Jastrow then spoke of the early literature of Babylonia, and in the course of the evening described points which distinguished that literature from the Accadian. He read extracts from some of the ancient writings showing very remarkable resemblances between them and the ancient Hebrew scriptures, and how almost the exact words of the portions of the Book of Job and of the Decalogue were to be found in sentences of these most ancient writings. The speaker attributed much of this literature to as early a date as 3800 B. C. Dr Jastrow entered into many particulars of the writings collected in these oriental libraries, explaining how

many of them were accounts of their heroes, records of their lawsuits and books of omens, and how, in one series preserved in the British Museum, the variations in the tenure of some property could be traced through a period of over two hundred years. A very interesting discussion followed the address.

Mr Barnwell then nominated as his executive committee for the coming year: Thomas L. Montgomery, chairman, Wagner institute of science, Philadelphia; H. J. Carr, Public library, Scranton, Pa.; Alfred Rigling, Franklin institute, Philadelphia; Miss Cruice, American philosophical library, Philadelphia; John Thomson, Free library of Philadelphia; Mrs Fell, city institute, Philadelphia; John Edmands, Mercantile library, Philadelphia; Ernest Spofford, Library company of Philadelphia; Alice B. Kroeger, Drexel institute library, Philadelphia.

The members spent some time after the adjournment in examining a very curious specimen of the old Assyrian brick writing, and also the library of the Drexel institute.

Massachusetts—A meeting of the Massachusetts library club was held on Monday, April 11, at the new building of the Library Bureau on Atlantic av. The visiting classes from the New York State library school and Pratt institute library school were guests of the club. The afternoon session began at 3, and was devoted to an examination of library appliances and processes of manufacture of library material.

A collection of photographs of Venice, the property of the Library art club, was on exhibition afternoon and evening.

The evening session was called at 7.30. The chief paper was read by James L. Whiting, on the Post conference trip of the American librarians in England and Scotland.

At the close of the meeting a reception was given by the Library Bureau.

NINA E. BROWNE, Rec.

Library Schools

Drexel

The work of the second term has included dictionary cataloging, bibliography, binding, lectures on general topics relating to library science, and on the history of printing, as well as lectures on the bibliography of political science, political economy, and American history given by the professor of these subjects in the institute. The course in literature under Miss Cottell embraces a bibliographic study of English authors of the nineteenth century.

The class has begun its annual tour of visits to the libraries of Philadelphia. This is an important part of the year's work, as the students are thus able to see (through the unfailing kindness of librarians) many of the methods discussed during the year's course of study.

The cataloging of the music library is nearing completion. This collection has presented many curious problems for the cataloger, owing to the peculiar manner in which its former owner bound his orchestral and piano compositions. In one respect it has been of value to the students, in showing how a difficult cataloging problem may be surmounted without tearing apart the bound volumes.

Miss Liveright, of the class of '96, and Miss Lamberton, of the class of '95, have been appointed as assistants in the library of the University of Pennsylvania.

Illinois State library school

The junior class, accompanied by the director, went to Chicago on April 30 for a week of library visiting. As a foundation for the work of observing and note-taking, and to familiarize beforehand with the libraries to be visited, the plan has been tried of having the collections of sample blanks, etc., from the different libraries, sent to the school beforehand for examination and mounting by members of the class.

The Library school enjoyed on April 4 and 5 a visit from Miss Ahern, the editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Miss Ahern addressed the Library club at its

meeting on the 4th in an informal and very interesting paper on the International library conference and conference trips.

An alumni association has been formed by the graduates of the Armour institute library school, which will include future graduates of the Illinois state library school, and aims to unite more closely the two schools. The association hopes to meet in Campaign in June.

The apprentice work of the junior class for the spring term is planned to include, daily, work in the stacks, of which each member has charge of a part, for shelf reading, shelf listing, and general supervision and experience in practical care of the books.

New York State library school

The seventh of the school's annual visits was perhaps the most successful in its history. The school left on the morning of April 6 and got back on the evening of April 18, and while all speak of it as a most delightful experience, no one doubted that the classes had been at work and not at play. Everywhere the greatest courtesy and attention was shown the school. Each year there seems to be a growing appreciation on the part of the public and of the libraries visited of the importance of the school's work, and both faculty and students have been almost embarrassed by the cordiality of their reception and by the great pains taken to make their visits pleasant and profitable. On the other hand many of the librarians insist that there is a stimulus to public interest and to their own employes which fully justifies their biennial welcome to the new members of the profession. This year was notable in the number of new librarians. J. C. Dana at Springfield, C. K. Bolton at the Boston athenæum, W. C. Lane at Harvard college, and H. C. Wellman at Brookline, had just taken office, but their welcome was as warm as if they had been there for a generation. Pres. Putnam, of the A. L. A., who was this year the alumni lecturer to the library

school, was appreciated in his own office and library as highly as he was in the lecture room, and no higher praise could be given, for of the 100 or more lecturers who have been to the school since its foundation, none have left a stronger impression of sympathy and helpfulness and inspiration than did Mr Putnam. Springfield, Hartford, and Worcester all more than maintained their former reputation, the other librarians cordially supporting Mr Dana, Miss Hewins, Mr Green, and Mr Barton. The dinner tendered the school by Mr Green and Mr Salisbury, at the club in Worcester, followed by informal and therefore all the more enjoyable speeches, was a delightful close to the second day. In Boston the public library, athenæum, and the Boston book company were supplemented by a reception at the Grundmen studio, by the college club, by the meeting of the Massachusetts library club held in the splendid new building of the Library Bureau, and by an evening session following that meeting at the same place, where a delightful paper by James L. Whitney on the European trip was the literary feature of an evening given up to music, dancing, refreshments, and general good fellowship.

The great factory of the Library Bureau, where there are many machines devised and made for its special work, and not to be seen elsewhere, was open to the free inspection of the librarians, though visitors are usually scrupulously excluded for the protection of the new processes peculiar to the Bureau.

In Cambridge, Harvard university, the public library, the theological school, and the great Riverside press repeated their former courtesies, and a delightful luncheon was tendered the school and many invited guests at the home of W. H. Tillinghast, assistant librarian of the university.

Brookline, Medford, and Woburn were thoroughly inspected, and delightful Salem again added to its laurels with the warmth of its welcome and the interests of the public library, the

Essex institute, Peabody academy of science, and the Salem athenæum.

The last day was given to the work of the Publishing section at the Boston athenæum and the Massachusetts State library. The press in the various cities gave an unusually large space to the school, vouching in a gratifying manner to the steady growth in public appreciation of the work of the modern library, and specially of the great step in establishing librarianship as a profession which the school represents. For several days of the visit its pleasure was increased by the presence of the class from the Pratt institute. The fact that Miss Plummer, Miss Rathbone, and Miss Davis are all graduates of the New York school makes the relations exceedingly cordial without the slightest touch of rivalry. The same is true of the schools at Philadelphia and the University of Illinois. No one takes greater pride in their steady growth and development under the wise management of its old graduates than does the parent school at Albany.

The library school has recently issued three new publications. The revised handbook of 82 pages, with numerous halftone illustrations, gives compactly all the information about the school, and is sent free to all the applicants.

Bibliography no. 5 is a selection of reference books for the use of catalogers in finding full names. This is arranged first under general cyclopedias and dictionaries, then the books by countries followed by those on special subjects. The list has the D. C. call numbers of the state library and fills 18 pages. An edition interleaved for the convenience of catalogers wishing to supplement it with other titles can be had for 10 cents.

The library school bulletin no. 2 is a register of the first 10 classes, including all matriculated students. The library history of each student is compactly given after the style of the university catalog. This is followed by the geographic summary of 217 students, who together have filled 535

positions. Besides various interesting tables, there is given a list of the bibliographies and reading lists and graduation theses, and the whole is supplemented by a full index.

One of the most significant tables is that showing the growth in the proportion of college graduates among the students. While the college degree is not absolutely required for admission, it is coming more and more to be the rule. There is also a marked increase recently in the proportion of men taking the course.

Pratt

The spring vacation, April 7-14, was devoted to a series of library visits. Four days were spent in Boston, where the Boston public and its West End branch, the Athenæum, Harvard university, and the Cambridge public libraries were visited. One afternoon was spent inspecting the new quarters of the Library Bureau. The Boston trip was planned to coincide with the biennial visit of the New York State library school, and the two schools met socially on several occasions. The Boston book company entertained them delightfully at luncheon; they were invited to a reception given by the College club, and on Monday evening they enjoyed, together with the members of the Massachusetts library club, the cordial hospitality of the Library Bureau. A never-to-be-forgotten pleasure was the luncheon given the Pratt institute school by the librarian of Harvard University and Mrs Lane, his mother, after the visit to the library.

A most interesting day was spent in Worcester, divided between the public library—where work with the schools and the possibilities of art exhibitions supplementary to school and club work were studied—and the library of the American Antiquarian society, where the treasures of the past were reverently examined.

A delightfully full day at Hartford followed, where, under the ciceronage of Miss Hewins, the State library, the Case memorial library, and the three

institutions housed in the Wadsworth athenæum, the Public library, the Watkinson reference library, and the Historical society library were visited.

The following day was spent at New Haven, where the Public library, the University library, and the Art and Peabody museums completed a delightful and profitable week.

Sarah L. Galloupe, '96, cataloger at Poughkeepsie public library, has been appointed librarian of Hollywood Inn, Yonkers, N. Y.

Charles E. Wright, '97, now with the Boston book company, has been appointed librarian of the new public library at Erie, Pa.

Request for Materials for the A. L. A. Report on Library Buildings

The undersigned, having been appointed to present the annual report on Library buildings at the 1898 meeting of the American Library Association, July 2-11, 1898, requests that there be sent him all descriptions or reports relating to library buildings, whether printed separately in pamphlet form, or available only in newspaper accounts or in type-written form. These will include preliminary reports or recommendations of building committees or librarians; also announcements, requirements, or reports of architectural competitions; also specifications for builders' work, and also miscellaneous articles, letters, addresses, or discussions relating to the subject. Besides printed matter, library views and plans are particularly desired (whether of buildings which are at present planned for merely, or of those which are in process of erection, or of those which have been recently completed), including photographs, drawings, or other reproductions of floor-plans, of elevations, or of perspectives.

It is hoped that this request for materials relating to library buildings will be construed as including the interior as well as the exterior; and everything relating to the interior fittings, or interior arrangement, together with views

of interiors, will be especially welcome. Whatever relates to branch library buildings (both exterior and interior) will be of special interest.

It is proposed to utilize such materials as may be sent in response to this request, not only in the preparation of the report itself, but in an exhibit to be made at the Chautauqua meeting, either by displaying them on the walls, or in portfolios or otherwise; but the writer will also esteem it a favor to receive, as a loan, any of the above items which cannot be spared for so prolonged an absence. In such cases they will be carefully returned to their owners after using. It will also be considered a favor if each librarian, in forwarding such materials as can be supplied, will forward with them a brief reference to the literature of his own library building, not omitting even such articles as may have been indexed in Poole or the Cumulative index, nor omitting to refer to such plans or illustrations as may have appeared in the annual reports of his library.

WILLIAM E. FOSTER,
Providence Public Library.

Those who were fortunate enough to take part in the A. L. A. excursion to Bath after the London conference, will remember T. Sturge Cotterell, who was untiring in his attentions to the visitors.

In a letter recently received by Dr Nolan, Mr Cotterell intimates the possibility of his paying a visit to America next February. He is preparing a series of lectures on historic Bath which, purely for the love of his native city, he will probably deliver where the proper arrangements can be made. The chance of hearing the proposed lectures will add to the delight with which Mr Cotterell's visit will be looked forward to, as the extent and accuracy of his knowledge of the history and traditions of his native city, than which there are none of its size as interesting in Great Britain, are unexcelled. He has recently published a map locating the residences of the many authors, artists, and historical characters who have made the place famous.

Notes by the Way

Make a list of the periodicals which the library expects to keep, and submit to the bookseller for prices. Sometimes subscription agencies are prepared to give good discounts on a large order. Write to the publisher of a periodical for missing numbers, and not to the agency. Do not delay notice of irregularity in receiving magazines, as they sometimes cannot be supplied after a time.—*Marie Miller.*

It is unwise to plan a student's library in a small town where there are few who will use it. It would be better to give the library to some live institution in a county seat, on condition that it shall be open for free consultation by all residents of the county, and that under proper rules, books may be lent from it to inhabitants of smaller towns for use at home.—*Samuel S. Green.*

Good principles to observe in procuring or planning the furnishing of a library are: 1) usefulness and adaptation to the circumstances of each particular case, and 2) true economy may often be practiced in obtaining the better though more expensive article at the outset.—*H. J. Case.*

A merchant who runs his shop with a businesslike management stocks his store with goods that people want, not those he thinks they ought to have; but once having established himself, he will find it to his profit to elevate the tastes of his customers and create a demand for higher grades of goods. The same principle holds good in a public library.—*F. M. Crunden.*

The arrangement of books in tiers of alcoves and galleries around a large hall is considered entirely obsolete. The old style of shelving around the walls in alcoves and in galleries has been generally superseded by the use of floor cases, that is, double bookcases arranged in parallel lines across the floor of a room.—*C. C. Soule.*

Questions and Answers

Q. 17. Please give me a list of books on library architecture. I do not care for periodical literature on the subject.

A. The only book on the subject of which we know is *Library construction, fittings and furniture*, by F. J. Burgoyne, in the Library series published by Allen, London.

Q. 18. Whom should one address to receive information regarding the library exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi exposition?

A. Write to Victor Rosewater, care Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

Q. 19. How shall the main entry be written for a book where the author's name is not given, as, *The art of fishing*, by An old angler?

A. Enter such a book under the first word, not an article, of the title, as, *Art of fishing.*

Q. 20. Is the author's name given on the title card when it is also given in the author's card?

A. It is customary to give the author's name in the title if it forms an integral part of the title, as Quackenbos' rhetoric.

Q. 21. Where can one obtain the World's Fair library congress proceedings?

A. A copy of the papers read at the meetings can be had on application to the Bureau of education at Washington, D. C. The proceedings as such were not published, though the proceedings of the A. L. A. of 1893 contain all important details.

Q. 22. Is it important to put the no. of pages in a book on the catalog cards?

A. It gives the reader an idea of the size of the book, and the extent to which the discussion of the subject-matter is carried.

Q. 23. Is a person not engaged in library work eligible to membership in the A. L. A.?

A. Membership in the A. L. A. is open to anyone whom the executive board may deem proper to admit.

News from the Library Field

East

Mrs E. W. Frost gives \$10,000 to Winthrop, Mass., for a new public library.

Miss Vaughn has been appointed librarian of the Fogg library at South Weymouth, Mass.

Walter G. Forsyth is organizing the library of the attorney general in the State house in Boston.

The Rutland (Vt.) free library reports a circulation of 63,243v. for the past year with 10,317v.

G. W. C. Stockwell, of the Albany library school, is cataloging the public library at Norton, Mass.

Suffield, Conn., will have a new library building worth \$20,000, through the generosity of S. A. Kent.

The Eldridge public library at Chatham, Mass., has received \$20,000 by the will of the late Marcellus Eldridge.

Shrewsbury, Mass., has received a gift of \$43,000 for a public library building, by the will of the late Jubal Howe.

S. A. Kent, of Chicago, who has a summer home in Suffield, Conn., has given \$25,000 to the latter city to build a public library.

Annie A. Smith, who served five years as assistant to the late librarian, G. V. Wheelock, at Chicopee, Mass., has been elected to the office of librarian.

L. P. Osborn has been elected librarian of the Peabody institute of Salem, Mass., to succeed J. W. Upton, who was obliged to resign on account of ill health.

The New Britain (Conn.) institute library reports an increase of 19 per cent in the books taken from the library for home use. The library will soon have a new building.

The Springfield (Mass.) public library has fitted up a special room for the use of physicians. Into this is gathered all the medical works of the library, about 3000v.

Rose Standish, librarian of the Jonathan Trumbull library, at Lebanon,

Conn., reports 1134v. in the library, with a circulation of 5581v. for the first year; no. of borrowers, 336.

The Belfast (Me.) public library's report for the past year shows a circulation of 23,227v. with 7840v. on the shelves. The D.C. has been introduced and a large addition made to the card catalog.

The report of the Lynn (Mass.) public library shows a circulation of 119,810v. with 48,863v. used in reference with 54,558v. on the shelves. The library board is preparing plans for a new building.

H. C. Wellman, who has been superintendent of branch libraries of the Boston public library, has been selected as librarian of the Brookline public library, to succeed Charles K. Bolton, who has gone to the Boston Athenæum.

April 11 being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of Ellen F. Whitney as librarian of the Concord (Mass.) public library, the trustees presented her with a beautiful gold-lined silver bowl suitably inscribed, as a token of their appreciation of her long and invaluable service to the library.

An exhibition of colonial revolutionary and other patriotic pictures, relics, autographs, etc., will be held in the art gallery of the Bridgeport (Ct.) library, May 2-31. The original paintings and drawings illustrating Senator Lodge's Story of the revolution, and Captain Mahan's, The American navy in the revolution, will also be exhibited.

The annual report of the Medford (Mass.) public library speaks of the satisfaction as to suitable accommodations afforded by the new library building. A gift of \$500 has been given by the late Charles Monroe in consideration of the benefit and pleasure he received from the library. The circulation, notwithstanding interruptions, was 76,604v. Positions in the library are filled by civil service examination. Monthly meetings of the staff have been organized and are proving highly beneficial.

Central Atlantic

Dr E. C. Richardson, University librarian at Princeton, has gone to Europe for several months of special study.

The report of the Brooklyn library shows 131,205v. and a circulation of 97,530v. The citizens' committee is proving of great help in the work of the library, and it is growing in usefulness.

The Aguilar free library of New York shows a circulation of 450,540v. for last year. The library is growing so rapidly that its quarters are becoming crowded, particularly in the branches.

The Free lending library of the Union for Christian work reports a circulation of 203,012v., reference use 4816v. The library is non-sectarian and free to all residents of Brooklyn. Teachers have special privileges.

The opening of the library of the New York Y. M. C. A. in its new quarters was made the occasion of a week's exhibit of the resources of the library. Several interesting addresses on topics relating to the exhibits were given by various people.

An interesting exhibit of book bindings was held recently in the high school building at Jamestown. Miss Hazeltine gave an interesting address on fine bindings illustrated by samples from the Prendergast library. Book-binding in general was also explained.

The 18th annual report of the New York Free circulating library, just issued, shows that the library circulated from its nine branches during the year 973,223v. During the year 22,077v. have been added to the library, which now numbers 113,890v. On Sundays 55,696 books were circulated, and the attendance at the reading-rooms during the year was 265,018.

Counting in the total expenses of the library the circulation has cost 6.4 cents a book; but excluding first cost of fitting up new libraries and the payment of rent, it has cost only 4.9 cents a book.

The report speaks most encouragingly of the success of the open-shelf system at the new branches.

The report mentions the establishment of a traveling library department, through which books are distributed to schools, clubs, etc.; the general introduction of the two-book system; the establishment of telephonic communication among all branches, and the classification of the library staff on civil service models with promotion by examination.

Central

A new public library has been started in Painesville, Ohio. F. W. Ashley is librarian.

Eleanor Roper, of Armour institute, class '96, is organizing the Lepper library of Lisbon, Ohio.

Winona (Minn.) public library had a circulation of 62,778v. last year, with a register of 2599 borrowers.

Geneseo, Ill., has received \$10,000 for a new public library building from an unknown friend. Work will begin at once.

The report of Librarian Hensel of the public school library of Columbus, Ohio, shows a circulation of 119,802v. with 24,159 books. This library has free access to its shelves.

Marion, Ia., will have a new library, which will be open to all who will subscribe for the Register, a newspaper of the place, through whose ingenuity the plan for the library was started.

The Cleveland public library will issue periodical library league bulletins in the form of fancy bookmarks, each one to be used till another is issued. The league now numbers 14,344.

The annual report of Librarian Whelpley of Cincinnati, shows a circulation of 400,000v. with 218,874 books and pamphlets in the library. The enrolled book borrowers are 26,065.

Earl H. Merriman, formerly connected with St Joseph (Mo.) public library, and lately of the Buffalo public

library, resigned his place in the latter institution to study for the ministry.

The annual report of the Young Men's library of Dubuque, Ia., shows circulation to be 33,046v. with number of books in library, 17,168; librarian's salary, \$500; books and periodicals, 646; rent, \$750.

Margaret Zimmerman, of Pratt institute, class '97, has taken a position with the firm of Hayes, Cooke & Co., of Chicago, to assist in introducing library methods into the business of bookselling.

The men and boys in the employ of the Chicago public library have put on a uniform. It is of gray cloth with brass buttons on which are the letters C. P. L. A cap of naval pattern is lettered the same.

The board of library trustees of St Louis has bought a site for a new library building. The grounds cover a square from 17th to 18th st. and from Olive to Locust st. The price paid was \$455,000.

The annual report of Mrs Jermain, librarian of Toledo (O.) public library, shows a circulation of 113,611v. with 40,244 books in the library. The teachers in the city schools are allowed six cards each.

The Chicago public library circulated 96,449v. through their delivery stations and branch libraries in March, 1898. The library has now 67,010 card-holders. This is the largest registration of any public library in the country.

The trustees of the Chicago public library are having an arrangement of water pipes placed around the top of the library building, by means of which a curtain of water can be made to fall around the building in case of fire being in its vicinity.

J. P. McLean, Ph. D., has been appointed librarian of the Western reserve library at Cleveland. Dr McLean is widely known by his writings on history, genealogy and anthropology. He succeeds Peter Neff, who had been in charge for many years.

A law just passed takes the Cincinnati public library out of the control of the board of education and places it in charge of a commission of seven members. The institution is to be dependent upon the entire county for its support, and there is to be an annual tax levy of three tenths of a mill for that purpose.

The annual report of the public library of Dayton, Ohio, gives entire circulation of the library for 11 months as 157,948v. with 41,499 books; registered card-holders, 10,277. The new features of work have been a training class, a school department, and access to the shelves. The librarian's account of these things is very interesting.

The report of the John Crerar library of Chicago shows 29,000v. and 1300 current periodicals accessible for use. The operation of the funds for the year shows a surplus of \$35,000 to be carried to the building fund. The present quarters are so satisfactory that the lease, which expires in 1900, will likely be extended for a time, until the building fund is large enough to meet the wishes of the board.

The Warren Co. library at Monmouth, Ill., eventually will come into possession of \$25,000 by the will of the late Mrs Simmons of that city. The present building was built for the library by W. Pressly in 1870. The library has almost outgrown its rooms in this, and the Simmons bequest will be used to extend the present quarters. This is the first library founded in the state and has always done good work. The circulation last year was 56,501v. with 18,228v. on the shelves.

One of the adjoining rooms has been added to the library at the Chicago normal school. This room easily accommodates 50 readers at a time. The reference books and magazines are kept on file there. The blackboards are to be covered with burlap, and the pictures of immediate interest from the Picture collection are to be hung there from time to time. The maps are

placed above the blackboards. Everything possible is being put into this room to make it a helpful study room. Each class from third grade, up through the nine sections of the training class, has one regular recitation period a week for study in the library.

South

The women's clubs of Dallas, Tex., are trying to start a public library in that city.

Columba Hanagan, librarian of the Vicksburg library, was married March 24 to Dr A. T. Mitchell, U. S. N. Fenton Michie has been elected to fill the vacancy in the library.

The Fisk Free and public library of New Orleans reports for the last month of its first year a circulation of 7299v.; the no. of card-holders is 4207. William Beer is librarian of both this institution and the Howard memorial, which together provide a collection of 80,000 books. Dr Mayo, of Boston, in a recent publication, speaks in highest terms of the educational work which the libraries of New Orleans are doing. A valuable list of books on the history of Louisiana and New Orleans has been published by the public library.

West

Mrs Annie L. Diggs took her position as State librarian of Kansas, succeeding James L. King March 24. The term is four years.

Miss Burrows, for several years in the Omaha public library, has resigned her position to take a place in the library of the University of Nebraska.

The Helena (Mont.) public library has started a monthly Round table for the examination and discussion of children's books. It is participated in by teachers, parents, and librarians.

Foreign

J. D. Mullen, who has been librarian in Birmingham, Eng., since 1858, has resigned his position as librarian of the Birmingham library on account of ill-health. He has been succeeded by A.

Capel Shaw, who has been sub-librarian for a number of years.

Pacific Coast

Alexis V. Babine, librarian of the University of Indiana, has been appointed associate librarian of Stanford university.

Library Bureau Department

The New York and Pratt institute library schools may have had fault to find with Boston's Easter weather, but they certainly found no chill in Boston's welcome to them. The Massachusetts library club was not their only cordial host, nor the inspection of libraries and publishing houses their only recreation.

On Easter Monday, that most versatile firm, the Library Bureau, devoted itself to their pleasure, and entertained between two and three hundred members of the club and the visiting schools, threw open its Congress street offices, warerooms, and factories, explained its methods and systems, its devices and mechanisms, and crowned a most interesting afternoon with an evening reception, supper, and dance.

It was a unique entertainment, not alone for its technical interest to library workers, or for the novelty of its businesslike surroundings, but for the unusual spirit of friendliness that seemed to pervade the whole day's proceedings. Never did the most hospitable private house extend more individual courtesy to its guests. If each particular member of the establishment, from the vice-president and the treasurer down to the office boy, had been the sole host and sponsor, he could not have shown more eager responsibility for the guests' pleasure.

The planning and management of parties has not hitherto been included in the Library Bureau's repertoire, but we shall expect anything now from their surprising adaptability.

So much for the day in abstract. Now for its details. Five floors of a big building are a good deal of ground to cover, but one cannot dismiss a

pleasant subject by saying, We were invited, and went, and had a good time. One wants to tell more about it than that. And where shall one begin?

Perhaps the general office and sales-room is the best place to start from, for there were the first attractions of the Library Bureau—the solid, substantial oak and mahogany furniture that appeals so much to a librarian's heart. That office would appeal to anyone's heart, we think, with its size and light, its pleasing furnishings, and its great plate-glass windows looking down on the city and the harbor. Rather near to Spain just now, a mere stone's throw from the water; but that will pass.

After inspecting all sorts and sizes of library equipments, the enthusiastic visitors made a tour of the building, through the card factory, the printing office, the shipping department and storerooms, and found that library work was not the only kind that engrossed the firm's attention, for there on one floor of the building were rooms given up completely to Life, Fire and Accident insurance business, where the Library Bureau, with its far-famed card system and methods, holds a sort of clearing house and exchange for insurance companies.

The card factory was quite the most popular point in the building, and judging from the interest and surprise expressed, card making was evidently not the simple affair that most had imagined. Indeed it looked very far from simple, with all the machinery, labor and care necessary to turn the big blank sheets of cardboard that you don't want, into the small, ruled, punched cards that you do want very much; and no one will wonder any more why the cards are always so perfect, for a defective card would have a pretty hard time slipping through the careful inspections in that factory. Two hundred and fifty million cards turned out in a year! Two hundred and fifty million perfect cards too! And if five thousand of each variety were kept in stock, the Library Bureau would have nine million on its hands.

One could have spent hours watching the machinery fed with its different sized stages of cardboard, but one cannot linger too long in the afternoon when there is a party coming in the evening.

This is the way the invitation read:

You are cordially invited to meet the New York state library school and the Pratt institute library school at a meeting of the Massachusetts library club, to be held at the Library Bureau, 530 Atlantic av., corner of Congress st., on Monday, April 11, at 7.30 p. m.

James L. Whitney, of the Boston public library, will read an account of the Post Conference trip of American librarians in England and Scotland, following which an informal reception will be tendered by the Library Bureau.

Eight o'clock found the Library Bureau a blaze of light like a Beacon street mansion, the offices turned into cloak rooms, the hosts more smiling and cordial than ever, and 250 people gathered in the big, white hall to hear Mr Whitney's most humorous and entertaining paper.

After the reading, and a slight amount of library club business, the guests were presented to the reception committee, composed of Mrs M. S. Cutter Fairchilds and Miss M. W. Plummer, Mr and Mrs H. E. Davidson, and Mr and Mrs W. E. Parker, and the meeting turned into as pleasant an evening party as has ever been given in Boston on Easter Monday. With a fine building, spacious dancing room, cordial hosts, good music, a well catered supper, it was indeed a melancholy person who was not glad to be there.

Altogether the day was an unusual one. We may never be asked again, but we have hopes. VISITOR.

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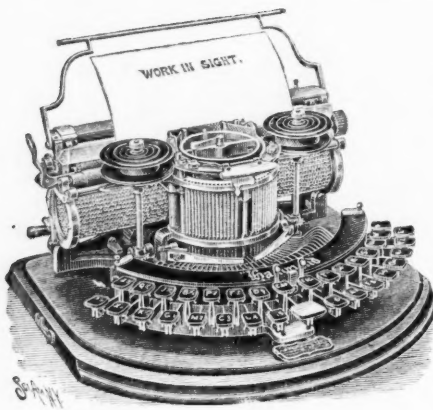
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